



Made of What?

A Collection of Tokens Made from Landmarks

by Kevin Lester

Throughout the history of exonumia, there have been many tokens and medals made from well-known landmarks.

A TOKEN MADE FROM THE U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA

A medal was made partly from the U.S.S. South Dakota. This particular token was made from brass.

The New York Ship Building Corp. began construction of the USS South Dakota, also known as "Battleship X" on July 5, 1939 in Camden, New Jersey. She was the lead ship of her class of 35,000-ton battleships and on June 7, 1941, she was launched. On March 20, 1942, she was commissioned with Capt. Thomas L. Gatch in command.

In August of 1942, she was transferred to the Pacific. On October 26, 1942, she was hit by a Japanese bomb, damaging her forward sixteen-inch gun during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands before colliding with the USS Mahan while also attempting to avoid a submarine. Damage from both incidents was repaired locally before going back to battle.

After another battle against the Japanese, her radar was damaged, and she received many hits from the Japanese. She was given basic repairs in order to be seaworthy before she sailed to New York for more repairs.

After 40 days, she left New York and was assigned to the North Atlantic. In December 1943, she joined 5 other battleships in bombarding the Marshall Islands.

On May 15, 1944, a Japanese plane dropped a 500lb bomb onto the South Dakota but did little

damage to the ship's ability to operate. She was overhauled at Puget Sound before once again returning to Pearl Harbor.

She then helped fast carriers with strikes in Tokyo and Iwo Jima. While in the process of rearming, an explosion in one turret killed 11, and she sailed to Leyte for repairs. Her last action in war was helping with strikes against northern Tokyo on August 15, 1945.

She then sailed to the west coast of the United States. On January 3, 1946, she sailed to Philadelphia for an overhaul and was assigned to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet in June. On January 31, 1947, she was decommissioned.

On June 1, 1962, she was removed from the Navy list before being sold for scrap on the 25th.

During her life, this remarkable ship was given a total of 13 battle stars.



Medal made partly from U.S.S. South Dakota

A TOKEN MADE FROM THE CONSTELLATION

Tokens were made that were struck from copper spikes from the U.S. Frigate Constellation.

On March 27, 1794, George Washington signed a law to reestablish our Navy after the Revolutionary War. This authorized the creation of 6 frigates, including the Constitution and the original Constellation.

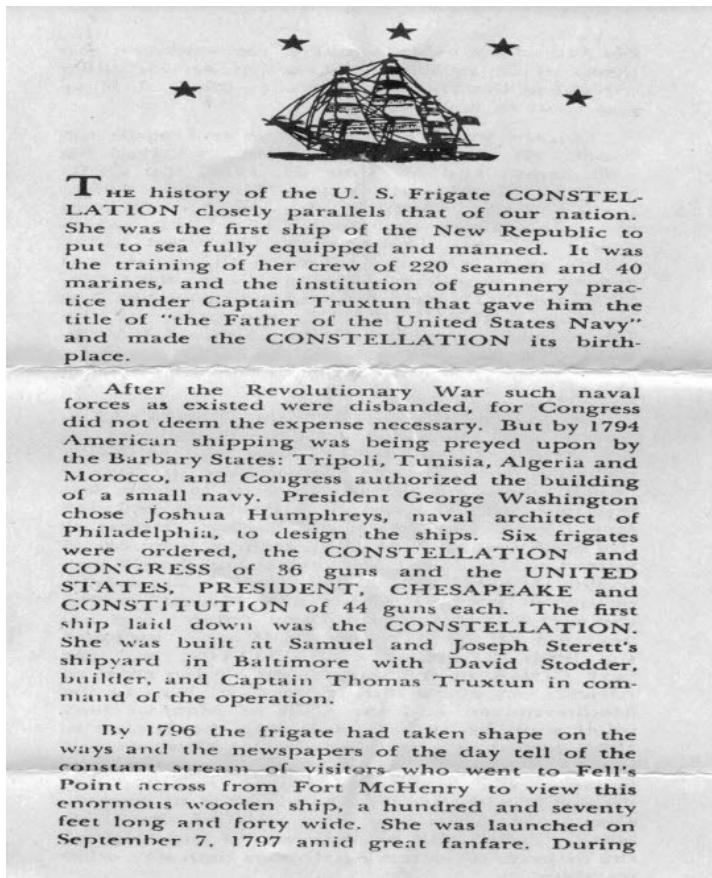
The original USS Constellation was launched at Sterrett Shipyard in Baltimore on September 7 of 1797. She engaged a French Frigate in 1799 near the islands of Saint Kitts and Nevis. On February 1, 1800, she engaged another French frigate for five hours. She became blockaded during the War of 1812 while being repaired.

She also helped capture an Algerian frigate during the Second Barbary War. In 1853 she was disassembled.

But that was not the end of this historical ship- rumor has it that some of the wood from her was used to build a smaller sloop by the same name, which is now residing in Baltimore.



Medal made from copper spikes from the 2nd Constellation, made around 1955



Informational paper with information on the first Constellation

U. S. Frigate "Constellation"



Souvenir Medals Struck From Navy's First Ship

Good For Lifetime Admission to Frigate

Thousands of special copper medals, newly-minted from parts of the United States Frigate "Constellation", now berthed in Baltimore, will provide lifetime free admission to the Navy's oldest vessel for the fortunate owners.

The medals, struck from copper spikes used in the original construction of the ship in Baltimore in 1797, are being used to raise funds nationally for the restoration work required to put the "Constellation" in original condition. The medals are being distributed on the basis of one for each dollar donated.

Every dollar raised by this means will go towards replacing deteriorated planking, frames, masts, bulwarks and the hundreds of other items needed so that the "Constellation" can remain afloat and take her rightful place as a national shrine.

Completed several months before the famous U.S.F. "Constitution", the "Constellation" saw action on numerous occasions during the 18th and early 19th Century. She remained on the Navy's active list until 1955, and during World War II was the flagship of the Atlantic Fleet. A stout link with our heritage, the "Constellation's" preservation is felt to be a national responsibility.

Donations of a dollar, or multiples of a dollar, which will make the restoration possible, should be made to:

"Constellation", Baltimore, Md.

"CONSTELLATION"
BALTIMORE, MD.

I enclose \$..... to help restore the United States Frigate "Constellation". In return please send me.....
"Constellation" medals.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

This pamphlet was produced at no cost to the "Constellation" Committee. The following firms and individuals kindly donated time, labor and material for its preparation:

Artist: Edward L. Christle, Tower Building, Baltimore

Photostats: Baltimore Photo & Blue Print Co., 211 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore

Typography: The Linotype Composition Co., 407 E. Saratoga St., Baltimore

Paper: John Floyd Paper Co., Inc., 2330 N. Warwick Ave., Baltimore

Printing: The Charles B. DeVilbiss Co., 411 E. Saratoga St., Baltimore 2, Md.

Order form from 1950s for the tokens, falsely claiming spikes were from 1797 ship rather than the 1855 ship, according to www.coinworld.com/news/precious-metals/research-matters-1955-medals-claim-of-origin-.html

A TOKEN MADE FROM THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Sears Roebuck and Company made a token using actual material removed during the restoration process of the Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty stands tall on Liberty Island in New York. In 1865, a French historian suggested building a statue to commemorate the friendship of the United States and France. In 1875, construction began in France, and was made of copper on steel supports.

On July 4, 1884, the statue was presented to the American minister to France in Paris before being disassembled and shipped to New York City. On October 28, 1886, President Grover Cleveland dedicated the statue on its pedestal.

In 1986, the statue was repaired by both French and American workers as part of a centennial celebration.

These tokens both commemorated the second century of Sears Roebuck and Company and the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. They were made of actual material from the statue.



Token issued by Sears to celebrate the 2nd century of Sears and the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty

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